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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

CONFIDENTIAL  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
ALL AMERICAN REPUBLICS  
4/19/02

DRAFTED: BFRIEDMAN

APPROVED: RNORIEGA

CLEARED: USOAS:PDESHAZO, ARA/AND:TSHANNON,  
ARA/FO:CSTRUBLE, ARA/FO:LGUTIERREZ, ARA/PPC:GSPROW,  
ARA/AND:BNARANJO, P:MHAMMER, D:EMARTINEZ, S/S: DGRAZE,  
S/P:MZARIN

ROUTINE

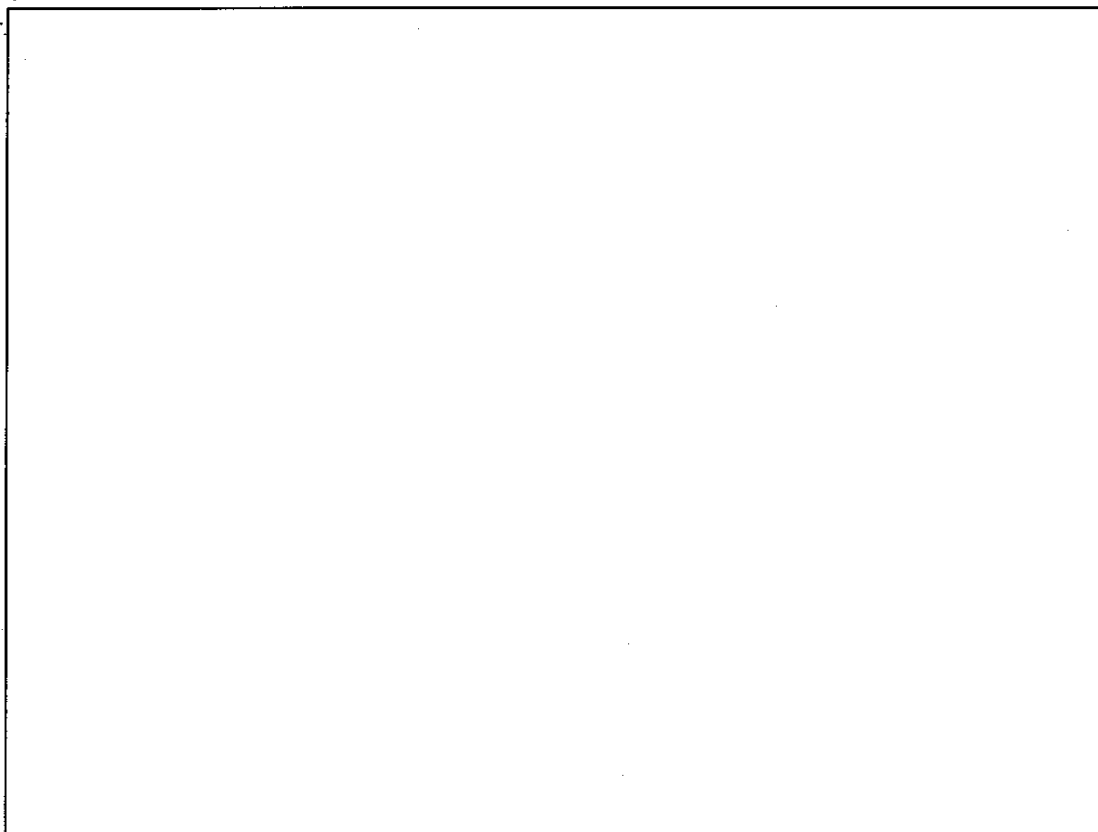
DECL:4/20/12

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, OAS, VE

SUBJECT: OAS APRIL 18 RESOLUTION ON VENEZUELA

CLASSIFIED BY AMB. ROGER F. NORIEGA. REASON: 1.5 (B&D)

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SUMMARY  
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SECRETARY POWELL'S STATEMENT  
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2. (U) Secretary Powell's statement condemned the recent interruption of the constitutional order in Venezuela while also recognizing that democracy there had become increasingly crippled over many months. He called upon the government of Venezuela to hold accountable those who engaged in illegal acts before and during the crisis, exhorted on President Chavez to follow through on his pledge of national reconciliation and adherence to democratic principles, and called on all democratic forces in Venezuela to participate in President Chavez's proposed national discussion. The Secretary also urged the Inter-American Community to examine how it could have used the mechanisms of the IADC before April 11 to better support Venezuelan democracy, while proposing that the Inter-American Community - through the IADC - take an active role in strengthening Venezuelan democratic institutions. (The Secretary's statement can be found on the State Department web-site.)

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BACKGROUND TO THE RESOLUTION  
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THE RESOLUTION  
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4. (U) The resolution 1) supports the Venezuelan government's initiative to convoke and all-inclusive national dialogue; 2) encourages the Venezuelan government to adhere to the essential elements of democracy; 3) expresses satisfaction at the early May visit of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR); 4) offers the support and help of the OAS to the Venezuelan government for the consolidation of democracy; 5) instructs the OAS Permanent Council to present a report on the situation in Venezuela at the May General Assembly meeting; and 6) expresses the IACHR's intention to carry through on its acceptance of the Government of Venezuela's 1999 invitation to conduct an on-site visit, and its intention to execute that visit the first week of May.

Begin text

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and after analyzing the situation in the Bolivarian republic of Venezuela, the Permanent Council adopted resolutions CP/RES. 811 (1315/02) and decided to convene a special session of the General Assembly;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes as essential elements of representative democracy, inter alia, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic free and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and independence of the branches of government; and

BEARING IN MIND the report submitted by the Secretary General of the OAS on the mission to Venezuela that the Permanent Council instructed him to carry out in order to investigate the facts and take the necessary diplomatic steps,

RESOLVES:

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- (1) To express satisfaction at the restoration of the constitutional order and the democratically elected government of President Hugo Chavez Frias in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- (2) To express the determination of the member states to continue applying, without distinction, and in strict accordance with the letter and spirit of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the mechanisms provided for therein for the preservation and defense of representative democracy, reiterating their rejection of the use of violence to replace any democratic government in the Hemisphere.
- (3) To support the initiative of the Government of Venezuela to convoke immediately a national, all-inclusive dialogue, and to urge all sectors of Venezuelan society to participate and devote their best and most determined efforts to bringing about the full exercise of democracy in Venezuela, abiding fully by the Constitution and taking into account the essential elements of representative democracy set forth in Articles 3 and 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
- (4) To encourage the Government of Venezuela in its expressed resolve to fully observe and adhere to the essential elements and components of representative democracy, as stipulated in Articles 3 and 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
- (5) To encourage the government and all sectors and institutions in Venezuela to pursue their activities in accordance with the rule of law and to seek national reconciliation.
- (6) To express satisfaction at the acceptance by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the invitation by the Government of Venezuela in September 1999 to conduct an on-site visit to Venezuela, which will take place the first week of May 2002.
- (7) To provide the support and help of the OAS as required by the Government of Venezuela for the consolidation of the democratic process.
- (8) To instruct the Permanent Council of the Organization to present a comprehensive report on the situation in

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Venezuela to the General Assembly at its next regular session.

End Text.

5. (U) WHA and USOAS appreciate prompt demarches carried out by posts with host governments. These efforts aided USOAS in negotiating a balanced resolution that assists the cause of democracy in Venezuela.

POWELL

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